

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Session**  
**June 3, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Walker, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Eugene Hall, JT Surles and Chris Tuten. Also present were County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Sheriff Mac McNeill informed the Board that he had received the \$1.2 million from the Governor for communications upgrades. He thanked both Representative Shoaf and Senator Ausley for their support, as well as NextEra for their lobbying efforts. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the old equipment, to which Sheriff McNeill stated the county could utilize the old equipment if so desired. Commissioner Barfield requested that placing Wi-Fi repeaters on the new towers be a priority when they are built.
3. Sheriff McNeill presented information on the volunteer community work squads. He stated that, to date, 1848 hours had been performed at dump sites for a savings of approximately \$17,428 for the county.
4. Senator Lorraine Ausley addressed the Board. Board members thanked her for her role in the \$1.2 for communications. Senator Ausley also detailed other funding secured in the budget for Jefferson County such as the FRDAP grant for the Jefferson County Horse Arena improvements and the Broadband bill. Commissioner Barfield asked Senator Ausley about the Seminole Compact, which she briefly explained. Commissioner Hall inquired about additional stimulus/payroll protection initiatives, to which Senator Ausley stated the American Rescue Plan is still ongoing.
5. Citizen Mike Robinson asked for the Board's help with roads in the Aucilla Shores community. He explained that the HOA has been dissolved and there no longer any covenants/restrictions. He asked if the Board would consider the approximately 5 miles of arterial roads being deeded to the County, so that the community could maintain the other 25 or so miles of roads. The Board discussed a special assessment/taxing district. County Attorney Scott Shirley stated that the consultants could run the numbers and that perhaps a services assessment would be appropriate. He recommended this item be placed on the next agenda. Citizen Richard Connell stated that it would be a good investment to get these roads fixed, particularly as there are many buildable lots in this area. Citizen Brian Russell spoke on the conditions of the roads and implored the County for any assistance or guidance. Attorney Scott Shirley stated the standards for both paved and unpaved roads are specified in the Land Development Code and that before the County could undertake ownership, the roads would have to be brought up to the standard.
6. On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the General Fund and

Transportation Vouchers and the Minutes from the May 6, 2021 Regular Session—was approved.

7. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the FPL Final MSA Documentation item. She noted that this pertained the solar panels and improvements as well as The First Bank financing the purchase and Gulf Power executing the installation. On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the agreement was approved.
8. Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the Valley View Estates Non-ad Valorem Special Assessment item. Chairman Walker opened up a public hearing for the resolution. There being no input for the public, the public hearing was closed. On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the special assessment final document.
9. Emergency Management Director Paula Carroll addressed the Board regarding the Big Bend Disaster Task Force and introduced committee members. She stated this group would coordinate with existing agencies and further explained its function. On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the bylaws of the Big Bend Disaster Task Force.
10. Chairman Walker introduced the County Parks Rules and Enforcement item. He noted issues with cars parking in the boating area at the Wacissa and also stated trailers would often block other spots. Sheriff McNeill stated that historically law enforcement was present to keep the peace and ensure the safety of park patrons. He stated that, in order to curtail this type of behavior, the Board would need to implement some type of tool such as a civil fine/citation. Commissioner Barfield stated she would love to see preference for access/parking given to local residents and would also like to see the Board revisit the acquisition of Malloy Landing in order to help with parking. Citizen Richard Connell stated the Board should be revisit the acquisition of Goose Pasture and that it would also help alleviate traffic/crowding. On a related note, Commissioner Barfield stated that she was very disappointed in the feasibility study presented at the last meeting and that she would like to see the Board withhold payment until the vendor could come back before the Board. Commissioner Surles noted that the study was off-base. The consensus of the Board was to hold the check at this time/not pay the vendor and have Commissioner Barfield work with the County Attorney to draft a letter to the vendor. Sheriff McNeill stated that Master Sergeant Eades had put together some recommendations for the head of the river. It was the consensus of the Board that the County Attorney get with the Sheriff to discuss signage, ordinances, enforcement and possibly civil fines.
11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that this item was a repeat of the item on the last agenda, but procedurally needed to be executed differently per requirements. David Fox, with Fred Fox Enterprises, gave an overview of the CDBG housing grant. He provided the applicant ranking and reviewed any conflicts of interest. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the ranking and also noted the conflicts of interest as presented.** Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that one of the properties listed in the rankings is up for tax sale due to unpaid property taxes. Commissioner Barfield inquired if the Board was still on track to not rehab mobile homes, to which Mr. Fox responded in the affirmative. Mr. Fox recommended the approval of two projects: CDBG/SHIP Demolition and New Home Contract award for Ulee and the CDBG Home Rehabilitation Contract award for

**Hayes. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved Florida Homes as low bidder for the Ulee demolition and new contract award. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved Florida Homes as low bidder for the Hayes home rehabilitation contract award.**

12. Commissioner Surles introduced the Planning Progress Report item. Planning Official Shannon Metty stated in the last three years, there have been 315 new dwellings, 100 mobile homes, 85 lot splits and 370 new 911 addresses. She noted that impact fees were still \$102 for Fire and there were zero impact fees for Sheriff or Roads. Commissioner Barfield stated it was important to revisit the Land Development Code/Future Land Use Map and decide how the Board wants Jefferson County to look in the future. Citizen Paul Henry noted that people were not being paid to move her, but the lower millage rate was attracting families. Chairman Walker inquired if business licenses were mandatory, to which Mrs. Metty stated they were not. Citizen Paul Henry stated many of these businesses already had licenses from the state and cautioned the Board against overregulation.
13. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth gave a presentation on changes around the county with regard to Solid Waste dump sites. In her presentation, she also listed the days/hours of adjacent counties. She noted that Pinckney Hill and Bassett Dairy sites are only four miles apart, and one of them should be closed. Her suggestion was to keep a traffic log at both to determine which is more heavily utilized. She also provided traffic figures at the current sites, which show the Lloyd site as the most heavily used. She stated it has the only walk-thru gate and the schedule likely needed to be tightened up. Commissioner Surles noted this was still a work in progress, but the Board was committed to getting it right.
14. Commissioner Tuten provided an update on the Road Bond item. He stated that the city has agreed to put in \$30,000/year. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated this was pledging \$30,000 out of their possible \$40,000-\$45,000 and would be combined with the County's \$185,000. Attorney Shirley noted there was an option for us to manage the project or them. Commissioner Hall inquired about our bond rating, to which Clerk Reams stated he believed it as A++ and that the county was in great financial shape. Clerk Reams also stated that the material/documents for the Road Bond will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
15. Citizen Tom Randle inquired about the status of wireless from CenturyLink. Commissioner Barfield stated the County had uncoupled from CenturyLink for the RESTORE Act fund and that Langston and Associates was in the process of developing an RFP for complete design/sources of broadband for the whole county.
16. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick gave an update on the Lamont Park as well as the multi-use facility (concession, restrooms, storage) at the Recreation Park on Mamie Scott. It was the consensus of the Board to use contractors that would volunteer time to get the building to the "dry-in" phase.
17. Planning Official Shannon Metty stated the next two FSU group workshops on the Rec Park visioning plan would be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at 6 pm. She also stated the temporary use/noise permit update would be workshopped next week with the Planning Commission.

18. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting still being held. It was the consensus of the Board to have no meeting the first half of July.
19. Commissioner Barfield stated the Next Era/FPL had allocated \$100,000 to the School Board for use with something STEM-related (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). With Next Era's contributions and other sponsorships, the School Board was still \$50,000 short for their "JumboTron" at the football field. She asked if the Board would consider a donation to the School Board and that the money could come from Next Era funds, General Fund or Contingency. County Coordinator Barwick stated the Board could even consider using the money allocated for the small grant to go towards a donation. Commissioner Barfield requested this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
20. Commissioner Tuten stated the bids for fencing were back and that Bobo Chancy was the low bidder and get started in the next 3-4 weeks, which is as soon as he will have the supplies.
21. Chairman Walker stated his desire to work with Clerk Reams to see what Suwannee River Water Management District would offer for the Goose Pasture property.
22. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Jefferson County, Florida**

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Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court